

medium at 1000 cells/well in a 96 well format. PRO polypeptides are added to the growth medium at a concentration of 0.2% or 2% and the cells are incubated for 5 days at 37°C. As a positive control, cells are treated with 100µM hemin and as a negative control, the cells are untreated. After 5 days, cell lysates are prepared and analyzed for the expression of gamma globin (a fetal marker). A positive in the assay is a gamma globin level at least 2-fold above the negative control.

The following polypeptides tested positive in this assay: PRO237, PRO381, PRO362, PRO724, PRO866, PRO1114, PRO725 and PRO1071.

#### EXAMPLE 128: Induction of Pancreatic $\beta$ -Cell Precursor Proliferation (Assay 117)

This assay shows that certain polypeptides of the invention act to induce an increase in the number of pancreatic  $\beta$ -cell precursor cells and, therefore, are useful for treating various insulin deficient states in mammals, including diabetes mellitus. The assay is performed as follows. The assay uses a primary culture of mouse fetal pancreatic cells and the primary readout is an alteration in the expression of markers that represent either  $\beta$ -cell precursors or mature  $\beta$ -cells. Marker expression is measured by real time quantitative PCR (RTQ-PCR); wherein the marker being evaluated is a transcription factor called Pdx1.

The pancreata are dissected from E14 embryos (CD1 mice). The pancreata are then digested with collagenase/dispase in F12/DMEM at 37°C for 40 to 60 minutes (collagenase/dispase, 1.37 mg/ml, Boehringer Mannheim, #1097113). The digestion is then neutralized with an equal volume of 5% BSA and the cells are washed once with RPMI1640. At day 1, the cells are seeded into 12-well tissue culture plates (pre-coated with laminin, 20µg/ml in PBS, Boehringer Mannheim, #124317). Cells from pancreata from 1-2 embryos are distributed per well. The culture medium for this primary culture is 14F/1640. At day 2, the media is removed and the attached cells washed with RPMI/1640. Two mls of minimal media are added in addition to the protein to be tested. At day 4, the media is removed and RNA prepared from the cells and marker expression analyzed by real time quantitative RT-PCR. A protein is considered to be active in the assay if it increases the expression of the relevant  $\beta$ -cell marker as compared to untreated controls.

14F/1640 is RPMI1640 (Gibco) plus the following:

group A 1:1000

group B 1:1000

recombinant human insulin 10 µg/ml

Aprotinin (50µg/ml) 1:2000 (Boehringer manheim #981532)

Bovine pituitary extract (BPE) 60µg/ml

Gentamycin 100 ng/ml

Group A : (in 10ml PBS)

Transferrin, 100mg (Sigma T2252)

Epidermal Growth Factor, 100µg (BRL 100004)

Triiodothyronine, 10µl of 5x10<sup>-6</sup> M (Sigma T5516)

Ethanolamine, 100µl of 10<sup>-1</sup> M (Sigma E0135)

Phosphoethalamine, 100µl of 10<sup>-1</sup> M (Sigma P0503)

Selenium, 4 $\mu$ l of 10<sup>-1</sup> M (Aesar #12574)

Group C : (in 10ml 100% ethanol)

Hydrocortisone, 2 $\mu$ l of 5X10<sup>-3</sup> M (Sigma #H0135)

Progesterone, 100 $\mu$ l of 1X10<sup>-3</sup> M (Sigma #P6149)

Forskolin, 500 $\mu$ l of 20mM (Calbiochem #344270)

5 Minimal media:

RPMI 1640 plus transferrin (10  $\mu$ g/ml), insulin (1  $\mu$ g/ml), gentamycin (100 ng/ml), aprotinin (50  $\mu$ g/ml) and BPE (15  $\mu$ g/ml).

Defined media:

10 RPMI 1640 plus transferrin (10  $\mu$ g/ml), insulin (1  $\mu$ g/ml), gentamycin (100 ng/ml) and aprotinin (50  $\mu$ g/ml).

The following polypeptides tested positive in this assay: PRO237 and PRO731.

EXAMPLE 129: Stimulatory Activity in Mixed Lymphocyte Reaction (MLR) Assay (Assay 24)

15 This example shows that certain polypeptides of the invention are active as a stimulator of the proliferation of stimulated T-lymphocytes. Compounds which stimulate proliferation of lymphocytes are useful therapeutically where enhancement of an immune response is beneficial. A therapeutic agent may take the form of antagonists of the polypeptide of the invention, for example, murine-human chimeric, humanized or human antibodies against the polypeptide.

20 The basic protocol for this assay is described in Current Protocols in Immunology, unit 3.12; edited by J E Coligan, A M Kruijsbeek, D H Marglies, E M Shevach, W Strober, National Institutes of Health, Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

25 More specifically, in one assay variant, peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) are isolated from mammalian individuals, for example a human volunteer, by leukopheresis (one donor will supply stimulator PBMCs, the other donor will supply responder PBMCs). If desired, the cells are frozen in fetal bovine serum and DMSO after isolation. Frozen cells may be thawed overnight in assay media (37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>) and then washed and resuspended to 3x10<sup>6</sup> cells/ml of assay media (RPMI; 10% fetal bovine serum, 1% penicillin/streptomycin, 1% glutamine, 1% HEPES, 1% non-essential amino acids, 1% pyruvate). The stimulator PBMCs are prepared by irradiating the cells (about 3000 Rads).

30 The assay is prepared by plating in triplicate wells a mixture of:

100:1 of test sample diluted to 1% or to 0.1%,

50 :1 of irradiated stimulator cells, and

50 :1 of responder PBMC cells.

100 microliters of cell culture media or 100 microliter of CD4-IgG is used as the control. The wells are then incubated at 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for 4 days. On day 5, each well is pulsed with tritiated thymidine (1.0 mCi/well; 35 Amersham). After 6 hours the cells are washed 3 times and then the uptake of the label is evaluated.

In another variant of this assay, PBMCs are isolated from the spleens of Balb/c mice and C57B6 mice. The cells are teased from freshly harvested spleens in assay media (RPMI; 10% fetal bovine serum, 1% penicillin/streptomycin, 1% glutamine, 1% HEPES, 1% non-essential amino acids, 1% pyruvate) and the

PBMCs are isolated by overlaying these cells over Lympholyte M (Organon Teknika), centrifuging at 2000 rpm for 20 minutes, collecting and washing the mononuclear cell layer in assay media and resuspending the cells to  $1 \times 10^7$  cells/ml of assay media. The assay is then conducted as described above.

Positive increases over control are considered positive with increases of greater than or equal to 180% being preferred. However, any value greater than control indicates a stimulatory effect for the test protein.

The following PRO polypeptides tested positive in this assay: PRO273, PRO526, PRO381, PRO719, PRO866 and PRO1031.

#### EXAMPLE 130: Inhibitory Activity in Mixed Lymphocyte Reaction (MLR) Assay (Assay 67)

This example shows that one or more of the polypeptides of the invention are active as inhibitors of the proliferation of stimulated T-lymphocytes. Compounds which inhibit proliferation of lymphocytes are useful therapeutically where suppression of an immune response is beneficial.

The basic protocol for this assay is described in Current Protocols in Immunology, unit 3.12; edited by J E Coligan, A M Kruisbeek, D H Marglies, E M Shevach, W Strober, National Institutes of Health, Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

More specifically, in one assay variant, peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) are isolated from mammalian individuals, for example a human volunteer, by leukopheresis (one donor will supply stimulator PBMCs, the other donor will supply responder PBMCs). If desired, the cells are frozen in fetal bovine serum and DMSO after isolation. Frozen cells may be thawed overnight in assay media ( $37^\circ\text{C}$ , 5%  $\text{CO}_2$ ) and then washed and resuspended to  $3 \times 10^6$  cells/ml of assay media (RPMI; 10% fetal bovine serum, 1% penicillin/streptomycin, 1% glutamine, 1% HEPES, 1% non-essential amino acids, 1% pyruvate). The stimulator PBMCs are prepared by irradiating the cells (about 3000 Rads).

The assay is prepared by plating in triplicate wells a mixture of:

100:1 of test sample diluted to 1% or to 0.1%,

50 :1 of irradiated stimulator cells, and

50 :1 of responder PBMC cells.

100 microliters of cell culture media or 100 microliter of CD4-IgG is used as the control. The wells are then incubated at  $37^\circ\text{C}$ , 5%  $\text{CO}_2$  for 4 days. On day 5, each well is pulsed with tritiated thymidine (1.0 mCi/well; Amersham). After 6 hours the cells are washed 3 times and then the uptake of the label is evaluated.

In another variant of this assay, PBMCs are isolated from the spleens of Balb/c mice and C57B6 mice.

The cells are teased from freshly harvested spleens in assay media (RPMI; 10% fetal bovine serum, 1% penicillin/streptomycin, 1% glutamine, 1% HEPES, 1% non-essential amino acids, 1% pyruvate) and the PBMCs are isolated by overlaying these cells over Lympholyte M (Organon Teknika), centrifuging at 2000 rpm for 20 minutes, collecting and washing the mononuclear cell layer in assay media and resuspending the cells to  $1 \times 10^7$  cells/ml of assay media. The assay is then conducted as described above.

Any decreases below control is considered to be a positive result for an inhibitory compound, with decreases of less than or equal to 80% being preferred. However, any value less than control indicates an inhibitory effect for the test protein.

The following polypeptide tested positive in this assay: PRO273, PRO526, PRO381, PRO701, PRO363,